

TEXT OF TELEGRAM 83ISLAMA003154

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 03154 211006Z
ACTION RP-10

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-07 OIC-02 IO-15 NEA-06
HA-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SR-06 /056 W
-----302345 211014Z /12

R 211002Z FEB 83
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1558
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 03154

STATE FOR RP/IAR, NEA/PAB, AND HA

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SREF, PK, AF, ICRC
SUBJECT: ICRC ASSISTANCE TO AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN

1. (LOU) SUMMARY. THE ICRC HOSPITAL IN PESHAWAR FOR AFGHAN WAR WOUNDED AND THE ICRC PARAPLEGIC CENTER HAVE BEEN TREATING WARRELATED INJURIES OF AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN SINCE 1981. THE UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTED THE RUPEE EQUIVALENT OF U.S.DOLS 250,000 IN 1982 TO THE ICRC HERE. THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ICRC IN TREATING WARWOUNDED, BASED ON RECENT VISITS OF RP PROGRAM OFFICER AND REFUGEE COUNSELOR TO THE HOSPITAL. THE VISITS CONFIRM OUR RECOMMENDATION (ISLAMABAD 1659) OF EXPANDED U.S. SUPPORT FOR THESE IMPORTANT ICRC ACTIVITIES IN FY 1983. END SUMMARY.

2. (LOU) THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN TREATING WAR RELATED INJURIES OF AFGHANS IN PESHAWAR. IN JUNE 1981 THE ICRC
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 03154 211006Z

OPENED A HOSPITAL FOR WAR WOUNDED WHICH HAS BEEN RECENTLY EXPANDED TO ONE HUNDRED BED CAPACITY. IN WARM WEATHER, WHEN TENTS CAN BE SET UP IN THE GARDEN, THE HOSPITAL'S CAPACITY INCREASES TO 120-140. FROM JUNE 1981 TO JANUARY 31, 1983, THE HOSPITAL ADMITTED 2,103 PATIENTS AND PERFORMED 4,211 OPERATIONS, PRIMARILY AMPUTATIONS. APPROXIMATELY EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE PATIENTS ARE MEN, TEN PERCENT WOMEN AND TEN PERCENT CHILDREN. MOST OF THE PATIENTS COME FROM PAKTIA AND

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PAGE NO. 1

1273

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LOGAR. THE HOSPITAL NOW AVERAGES ONE HUNDRED NEW PATIENTS, TWO HUNDRED OPERATIONS AND FIVE HUNDRED OUTPATIENTS PER MONTH.

3. (LOU) BECAUSE OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF INJURIES TO LOWER LIMBS, THE ICRC OPENED A PROTHESIS WORKSHOP IN DECEMBER 1981 AND A PARAPLEGIC CENTER WITH A CAPACITY OF 50. THE AVERAGE STAY OF PATIENTS IN THE PARAPLEGIC CENTER IS SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS, AND TO DATE 74 PATIENTS HAVE BEEN TREATED THERE.

4. (LOU) THE ICRC HAS STARTED A FIRST AID COURSE TO TRAIN AFGHANS TO GIVE FIRST AID TO THE INJURED WITHIN AFGHANISTAN. ONE HUNDRED FORTY SEVEN AFGHANS HAVE COMPLETED THE THREE WEEK COURSE IN PESHAWAR AND MOST OF THEM HAVE RETURNED TO AFGHANISTAN.

5. (LOU) USUALLY IT TAKES SEVERAL DAYS FOR AN INJURED PERSON TO MAKE THE JOURNEY FROM AFGHANISTAN TO PESHAWAR FOR TREATMENT. THE ICRC HAS POSTED TWO AMBULANCES IN THE BORDER AREA, ONE IN PARACHINAR (KURRAM) AND ONE IN MIRAMSHAH (NORTH WAZIRISTAN). THE AMBULANCE RIDE TO PESHAWAR FROM THE BORDER TAKES EIGHT HOURS. BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING TO THE HOSPITAL, MOST PEOPLE
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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 03154 211006Z

WITH STOMACH AND LUNG WOUNDS DIE IN AFGHANISTAN OR IN PAKISTAN BEFORE THEY CAN GET THERE.

6. (LOU) THE HOSPITAL HAS NOTED AN INCREASE IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES THIS WINTER, AS COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR, BUT IS UNABLE TO DETERMINE IF THIS IS A RESULT OF MORE INTENSIVE FIGHTING OR IF THE HOSPITAL HAS BECOME BETTER KNOWN. DURING THE RECENT VISIT TO THE HOSPITAL OF REF COUNS AND RP PROGRAM OFFICER THE AD-MISSION BOOK SHOWED NINE NEW CASES ADMITTED, THE PREVIOUS NIGHT OF WHICH THREE WERE SEVERE CASES OF FROSTBITE AND THE OTHERS WAR INJURIES.

8. KABUL MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. SPIERS

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1277

PAGE NO. 3

1278